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Elaboración de un resumen en castellano de un texto que les será leído a los opositores en la lengua inglesa.

Se dispondrá de media hora..



# The New York Public Library Explores Romance, Sex, and Desire in a New Exhibition

The New York Public Library is one of the world's greatest libraries. It has symbolized the democratic ideal of free and open access to knowledge since it opened to the public in 1911. The magnificent flagship building of The New York Public Library is centrally located in the buzzing area of Manhattan. It welcomes millions of visitors a year from across the world who find inspiration in its majestic public spaces, unparalleled research collections, and vibrant programs and exhibitions.

Starting on February 10, in partnership with the festival La Serenissima: Music and Arts from the Venetian Republic, The New York Library is hosting the exhibition *Love in Venice*, which examines the literary, artistic, musical, and cultural aspects of Venice's enduring seductiveness.

The Republic of Venice, a secular state originating in the city of Venice and its surrounding lagoon communities, thrived for half a millennium (from 1297 until 1797) on the wealth of its mercantile elite, who dominated a prosperous sea trade with Europe and beyond. Such prosperity, combined with an autonomy and freedom atypical of the rest of Italy, made the Venetian republic a tolerant society—and soon a prime destination for lovers and pleasure seekers. Consequently, as leisure travel grew more fashionable among wealthy Europeans in the 16th century, Venice welcomed more and more tourists with a taste for art, music, literature, and dance, as well as those in love. Venice's unique desirability would continue long after the decline of the republic in the late 18th century and its eventual incorporation into a unified Italy. Around sixty artworks, books, letters and other artifacts will be on view from the Library's special collections. The Curator of the Prints and the Spencer Collection, who was also responsible for the show, said that: "Together these works document Venice's singular appeal as a destination for love and romantic intrigue."

The themes of the exhibition will include Venice's association with Venus, the ancient goddess of love and sensuality. Playing on the similarity between the words Venice (Venezia) and Venus (Venere), local writers and artists depicted Venus as a close companion and embodiment of the city. This idea, which exists from at least the early 16th century, is based on the shared association with the sea, for just as Venice rose from the waters of the lagoon, Venus was born from sea foam. The frontispiece for the festival book celebrating Ferdinando de' Medici,



through a dreamscape in search of his lover Polia, encountering on his way many puzzling artifacts and experiencing classical rites, including the Sacrifice of Priapus shown in the exhibition. The comparison of the two books is a chance to see one of the volume's most sensual images in its censored and uncensored states. Shown in front of a group of adoring women, the image depicts the god of fertility with his alert and priapic member, a feature that was often obliterated by later owners, as is the case in the Library's copy on paper.

Several public events and programs complement the exhibition including:

- Casanova: Seduction and Genius in Venice, on February 13, 2017 at 6:30pm.
- The Library After Hours, on February 24 from 6:30 to 9pm. This event features specialty cocktails, Italian snacks, guided curator tours of the Love in Venice exhibition, music and dance lessons, mask-making, and short Venetian films from the Library's archives.

Opening on February 10, Love in Venice will be on view until August 29 in the New York Library's Wachenheim Gallery.

